

## What to Do If Your Child Has Lead Poisoning

If your child has been tested for lead poisoning and the results are positive, it means his or her body has too much lead in it. People get lead poisoning when they breathe or swallow things that contain lead. Old paint chips and dirt are the most common sources of lead. Lead can also come from tap water in old buildings and from some jewelry and dishes. Children have the highest risk for lead poisoning, especially if they are less than 6 years old or recently came from another country where lead poisoning is common.

If your child has lead poisoning, it's important to follow the instructions you get from your healthcare provider. Lead poisoning can cause learning, hearing and behavior problems. If untreated, it can damage the brain, nerves, stomach and other parts of the body.

### High lead levels in the body can be treated:

- If the lead levels in your child's body are *very* high, your healthcare provider may tell you that medicine is required. Chelation therapy is a process that rapidly reduces the amount of lead stored in the body. Drugs are given that cause the lead to leave the body quickly through urine. Sometimes this treatment must be done in a hospital. After treatment, your healthcare provider will talk to you about reducing the amount of lead that your child absorbs. Follow-up testing will probably be required.
- Usually, treatment involves simply reducing the amount of lead that your child absorbs. This is done in two ways. First, you must remove or reduce the sources of lead around your child. Second, you must provide good nutrition for your child. These two measures are often enough to prevent lead poisoning in children.

For lead poisoning recalls due to high lead levels, go to [www.deltachildrenproducts.com](http://www.deltachildrenproducts.com) and [www.ruproducts.com](http://www.ruproducts.com).